

Claim Amendments:

1. (currently amended) A two-compartment container comprising a lid portion and a base portion, said lid portion being hingedly connected to said base portion by a hinge, thereby being openable and closable relative to said base portion in the manner of a clamshell,

said base portion having a base partition extending across said base portion in a direction substantially transverse to said hinge and dividing said base portion into a first compartment and a second compartment, said base portion further having a locking flap opposite to said hinge, said base partition extending from said hinge to said locking flap, and

said lid portion having a lid partition extending across said lid portion in a direction substantially transverse to said hinge, said lid partition extending from said hinge toward a face of said lid portion opposite to said hinge and being aligned with said base partition so as to abut against said base partition when said two-compartment container is closed, said lid partition being separated from a said face of said lid portion opposite to said hinge by a gap, said locking flap on said base portion fitting into said gap in said lid portion when said lid portion is closed onto said base portion, said locking flap and said face of said lid portion together having cooperative means for maintaining said two-compartment container in a closed condition.

2. (original) A two-compartment container as claimed in claim 1 wherein said means for maintaining said two compartment container in a closed condition comprises at least one nub on said locking flap and at least one hole through said face of said lid portion, said at least one nub and said at least one hole being aligned with one another whereby said at least one nub engages with said at least one hole when said locking flap fits into said gap in said lid portion

when said lid portion is closed onto said base portion to place said lid portion under tension toward said base portion.

3. (original) A two-compartment container as claimed in claim 1 wherein said locking flap comprises a wedge, said wedge being aligned with said gap in said lid portion, so that said wedge fits tightly in said gap when said locking flap fits into said gap in said lid portion when said lid portion is closed onto said base portion, said wedge thereby isolating said first compartment from said second compartment.

4. (original) A two-compartment container as claimed in claim 3 wherein said wedge has an inner surface, said inner surface abutting said lid partition when said locking flap fits into said gap in said lid portion.

5. (original) A two-compartment container as claimed in claim 3 wherein said locking flap further comprises an arcuate portion outward of said wedge, said arcuate portion deforming an inside surface of said gap when said locking flap fits into said gap in said lid portion to further isolate said first compartment from said second compartment.

6. (original) A two-compartment container as claimed in claim 1 wherein at least one of said first and second compartments has a bottom having a plurality of channels to collect liquid.

7. (original) A two-compartment container as claimed in claim 6 wherein said bottom further comprises a perimeter channel running around the perimeter thereof, said perimeter channel being provided to collect liquid draining from said plurality of channels.

8. (original) A two-compartment container as claimed in claim 1 wherein said base portion has a stepped edge exclusive of said hinge and said locking flap, and said lid portion has a correspondingly stepped edge so that said stepped edge of one of said base portion and said lid portion fits into said stepped edge of the other of said base portion and lid portion when said lid portion is closed down onto said base portion.

9. (original) A two-compartment container as claimed in claim 8 wherein said stepped edge of said lid portion and said stepped edge of said base portion have substantially the same shape.

10. (original) A two-compartment container as claimed in claim 8 wherein said stepped edge of one of said lid portion and base portion is separated from its respective portion by a channel.

11. (original) A two-compartment container as claimed in claim 1 wherein said lid portion includes a top surface having a first region over said first compartment and a second region over said second compartment, at least one of said first and second regions having at least one vent to enable heat and steam to escape from at least one of said first and second compartments.

12. (original) A two-compartment container as claimed in claim 11 wherein said vent has a hinge whereby said vent may be closed or opened to any desired degree.

13. (original) A two-compartment container as claimed in claim 11 wherein said vent is in a recessed area in at least one of said first and second regions.

14. (original) A two-compartment container as claimed in claim 1 wherein said locking flap is substantially as high as said face of said lid portion to stabilize and support said lid portion when said two-compartment container is closed.

15. (original) A two-compartment container as claimed in claim 14 wherein said locking flap is thicker than said face of said lid portion.

16. (original) A two-compartment container as claimed in claim 1 wherein said lid portion includes a top surface having a first region over said first compartment and a second region over said second compartment, and a bottom surface having a first region under said first compartment and a second region under said second compartment, said first and second regions on said top surface having raised areas and said first and second regions on said bottom surface having correspondingly indented areas, so that said two-compartment container may be stacked without sliding upon one another.

17. (original) A two-compartment container as claimed in claim 16 wherein said indented area in at least one of said first and second regions on said bottom surface of said base

portion has at least one channel to allow heat and steam to escape from a vent in a container stacked below.

18. (original) A two-compartment container as claimed in claim 1 wherein said two-compartment container is formed by molding plastic sheet material.

19. (original) A two-compartment container as claimed in claim 18 wherein said plastic sheet material is foamed.

20. (original) A two-compartment container as claimed in claim 18 wherein said plastic sheet material is unfoamed.

21. (original) A two-compartment container as claimed in claim 18 wherein said plastic sheet material is polystyrene sheet material.

22. (original) A two-compartment container as claimed in claim 21 wherein said polystyrene sheet material is foamed.

23. (original) A two-compartment container as claimed in claim 21 wherein said polystyrene sheet material is unfoamed.